



**1161st meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**
7:30PM Wednesday January 23, 2013
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California

**ELDER VS. ZERBE
THE 1909 ANA
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**PRESENTED BY
WILLIAM D. HYDER**

1160th meeting, December 26, 2012

We enjoyed our annual holiday potluck following the re-election of our current slate of officers and directors.

President Huston was saddened to announce that we had received news of the passing of member Peter Barchuk. Peter was a 46-year member of the PCNS.

Exhibits included:

Bill shared the new book, *The Private Sketchbook of George T. Morgan*.

Michael exhibited a satirical Condor Token showing the Uncharitable Monopolizer from 1800.

Jerry brought a Widow's Mite from Judea circa 100 B.C. and a Palestine token from the Jerusalem Hotel in Jaffe ca. 1890.

Glen shared coins from New Zealand.

Occasional Gleanings from PCNS History:

Our program for January 2013 covers the infamous 1909 ANA presidential election battle between Farran Zerbe and Thomas Elder. Some of the players in the event were later early members or honoary members of the PCNS. Farran Zerbe, of course, was onew of the founding members of the PCNS. His candidate for president in 1909, Dr. J. M. Henderson, and his wife were made honorary members at the August 7, 1915 meeting. Thomas Elder himself applied for membership in October 1917.

Zerbe visited San Francisco in 1918 and exhibited a nearly complete set of Leshner Referendum Dollars at the August meeting. Zerbe later served on a committee with Leland Steinman and Mr. Beardslee to encourage the state to issue a commemorative medal for returning World War I soldiers and sailors. The society also sought to strike a medal in honor of the PCNS president, Fred Huddart, who passed away in January, 1919. The Huddart medal was never issued. Zerbe was selected to complete the term of President Huddart. Although Zerbe had related to his home in Tyrone, Pennsylvania at the end of 1916, it appears he had moved back to San Francisco as he was active for the next few years.

In March, 1919, Leland Steinman submitted a sketch for a proposed seal for the PCNS. Action on the design was tabled for several months and a design submitted by Zerbe was approved at the August 1919 meeting. An auction was held at the November meeting to raise funds for the Seal and Die fund. At the same meeting, Zerbe led a discussion about the future of U.S. coinage since the price of silver had risen to the point that the silver in U.S. coins was equal to the face value of the coins.

The PCNS elected Victor D. Brenner an Honorary Member in January 1920 and Secretary Steinman present the Society a plaque designed and donated by V. D. Brenner. About the same time, the design for the PCNS seal was also unveiled leading to speculation today that the plaque may have been the PCNS seal meaning that Brenner executed the seal from Zerbe's design. David Lange was unable to find evidence to support or refute the belief in his study of PCNS records in 1990. From the August 1920 issue of *The Numismatist*:

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY SEAL.

For use in its literature and as a reverse design for medals which it hopes to produce, the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society adopted a design for a seal at its meeting August 26, 1919, from a sketch and ideas presented by Farran Zerbe, a cut of which is shown herewith.



The setting sun is suggestive of the Pacific, the great ocean that takes one from "Westward Ho!" to the Far East and whose waters and moisture wash the shore and nourish the great fields and forests of the motherlands, Oregon and California territories, from which have been carved the Pacific Coast States. In the foreground, mining at left and forestry at right, is depicted the two gifts of Mother Earth found by the pioneer and the foundation on which has been built and evolved the great Western coast country. Within a double-line circle surrounding this central device, PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, ORG. SAN FRANCISCO, 1915. The Society aims to extend its influence to eight Western states, which are named, commencing at bottom reading from right to left and divided by a five pointed star—CALIFORNIA OREGON ARIZONA UTAH NEVADA MONTANA IDAHO WASHINGTON each in line with and within a double-line bordered octagon.

The seal is obtagonal, typical of the Pioneer gold coins of the Pacific Coast. The sun's eight major rays are representative of the Society's original eight members who met and formed the organization June 24, 1915.

Considering eight states, eight stars, eight original members' major rays, and eight sides, Secretary Steinman has commented "Some piece of eight!" which is quote apropos numismatically, since the "piece of eight" was the coin mostly brought, sought and used by the Pioneers.

2013 meeting Schedule:

- February 27, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason
- March 27, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason
- April 24, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason
- May 22, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason
- June 22, 2013: Banquet Location TBA
- July 24, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason
- August 28, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason
- September 25, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason
- October 23, 2013: Building C, Fort Mason



PAPERS
OF THE
PACIFIC COAST
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
2012



Our latest publication was distributed at the December meeting and should be in your mail this month if you did not attend. Papers by William D. Hyder, Mark A. Benvenuto, and Jerry F. Schimmel

Dues: It is time to think about paying your dues for 2013 if you have not already done so. Dues are \$20 to help support the oldest numismatic organization in the West! Cash or checks are welcome at the meeting. Or, you can mail your check to:

P.C.N.S.
PO Box 475656
San Francisco CA 94147

Don't remember if you paid? We will send reminders to those who still owe in February.